

--- “Series of 1871” - CANADA CUSTOMS - the small Blue Beaver - 38 x 50 mm. ---

[Chris Ryan, “Canadian Revenue Newsletter”, No. 40, of December 2002]

“In spite of the requirements of the Act of 1880, the Customs Department had persisted in their old practice of stamping only the outer carton or packing case, and had declined to provide denominated stamps for small, individual packages. Thus in December of 1880, the Revenue Department assumed the responsibility for procuring the blue Customs tobacco revenue stamps. In July of 1881, the Revenue Department also assumed responsibility for the distribution of these stamps to local Customs officers through local Revenue Collectors. The July 12th 1881 notice from the Commissioner of Customs to his officers read as follows:

I have to inform you that the duty of procuring and furnishing stamps for Imported Tobacco, Cigars and Cigarettes, etc., has been assumed by the Department of Inland Revenue, and the Commissioner has arranged to place supplies of the different denominations of Stamps required in the hands of the Collectors of that Department to be supplied as required by them, and I am to instruct you, in future, to send your requisitions for such Stamps to the nearest Collector of Inland Revenue, who will supply the same. ...

In your requisitions you should state the number of any of the above Stamps you may require, and if there are Stamps of other denominations of kinds required, you should send your requisition in like manner, stating distinctly the contents and weight of the packages upon which they are to be placed, when if not in hand they will be procured and forwarded by the said Department of Inland Revenue.”

1st BABN Contract (1868-1873)	John McKay records that 182,000 lithographed “Small Blue Tobacco” stamps were delivered from the Ottawa plant.
2nd BABN Contract (1873-1878)	John McKay records that 200,000 lithographed “Small Blue Tobacco” stamps were delivered from the Montreal plant.
3rd BABN Contract (1878-1886)	John McKay records that 98,000 lithographed “Small, Blue, Square Tobacco” stamps were delivered. These had been printed under the previous Contract.

The catalogue lists the 1871 blue “Canada / Customs” beaver stamps as follows:

RM-70 - CUSTOMS, Beaver, blue, perforated 10, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove - 5 mm. controls
RM-71 - CUSTOMS, Beaver, blue, perforated 12½ x 10, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove - 5 mm. controls
RM-72 - CUSTOMS, Beaver, blue, perforated 10, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove - 4 mm. controls
RM-73 - CUSTOMS, Beaver, blue, perforated 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove - 4 mm. controls

The “theoretical” control number range for the CUSTOMS blue “Beaver” stamps

1st BABN Contract (1868-1873)	June 1871 -	100,000 copies	00001 to 100000
1st BABN Contract (1868-1873)	October 1871 -	50,000 copies	100001 to 150000
1st BABN Contract (1868-1873)	February 1872 -	32,000 copies	150001 to 182000
2nd BABN Contract (1873-1878)	May 3rd 1878 -	12,000 copies	182001 to 194000
2nd BABN Contract (1873-1878)	May 28th 1878 -	16,000 copies	194001 to 210000
2nd BABN Contract (1878-1886)	June 17th 1878 -	172,000 copies	210001 to 382000
3rd BABN Contract (1886-1892)	unspecified date	98,000 copies	382001 to 480000

The “actual” control number range for the CUSTOMS blue “Beaver” stamps - to date

RM-70 - CUSTOMS, Beaver, blue, perforated 10, with 5 mm controls -	02816 to 179767
RM-72 - CUSTOMS, Beaver, blue, perforated 10, with 4 mm controls -	none to date
RM-73 - CUSTOMS, Beaver, blue, perforated 12, with 4 mm controls -	184246 to 480005
RM-71 - CUSTOMS, Beaver, blue, mis-perforated 12½ x 10, with 5 mm controls -	49801 to 49830

--- “Small Beaver” - XXXI VICT. / CAP. VIII - CANADA CUSTOMS - June 1871 ---

--- RM-70 - lithographed in blue ink on horizontal mesh wove at Ottawa under the 1st BABN Contract ---

--- perforated 10 - with 5 mm. red controls - 38 x 50 mm. - scanned at 150% scale ---

Chris Ryan, “Canadian Revenue Newsletter”, No. 39, May 2002

“It was not until mid-1871 that the Customs Department introduced a stamp for small packages of tobacco. This stamp was lithographed and bore no information as to the weight contained within the package. The first supplies of these stamps were delivered by BABN in June 1871 (100,000), in October 1871 (50,000) and in February 1872 (32,000). Further supplies were not ordered by the Customs Department until May and June of 1878, namely, May 3rd (12,000), May 28th (16,000) and June 17th (172,000)”.

Chris Ryan reports that BABN was acting as the *middle-man* when they supplied these blue beaver stamps to the “Customs Department” in 1868-1881. The lithographic printing was actually done by the “Burland-Desbarats Lithographic Co.” The majority of the lithographic stamps handled in this manner by BABN were purchased in fully finished form. The perforating and numbering, by 1880, was being done by BABN. Judging by the perforations (initially a rough perf 10) and by the control numbering (initially 5 mm.) on these beaver stamps, this happened under the **2nd BABN Contract**, when the perforation changed to a crisp 12, and the control numbering changed from 5 mm. to the Montreal standard of 4 mm.

1st BABN Contract (1868-1873)

June 1871 -

100,000 copies

00001 to **100000**

The catalogue lists the 1871 blue “Canada / Customs” beaver stamps as follows:

RM-70 - CUSTOMS, Beaver, blue, perforated 10, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove - 5 mm. controls

RM-71 - CUSTOMS, Beaver, blue, mis-perforated 12½ x 10, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove - 5 mm. controls



RM-70 - CANADA CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 10, with 5 mm. red control **02816**,
lithographed on horizontal mesh wove - *from the collection of Fritz Angst*

02816
49606
49769★

RM-70
RM-70
RM-70

CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 10, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 10, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 10, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove

--- mis-perforated 12½ x 10 - with 5 mm. red controls - 38 x 50 mm. - scanned at 150% scale ---

The following stamps appear to have been perforated 10 by “Burland-Desbarats”, but missed the proper vertical perforations (which were run off-centre). It was then taken to a *secondary* hand-perforating machine, and given a 12½ vertical separation. I have not seen a purely 12½ x 10 perforated stamp.

The catalogue lists the 1871 blue “Canada / Customs” beaver stamps as follows:

RM-71 - CUSTOMS, Beaver, blue, mis-perforated 12½ x 10, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove - 5 mm. controls



★**RM-71** - CANADA CUSTOMS, blue, perforation 12½ x 10 error, with 5 mm. red control **49830**, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove - the additional vertical row is perforated 10

49801	RM-71	CUSTOMS, blue, mis-perforated 12½ x 10, on horizontal mesh wove a second vertical row (perf 10) at the right center
49830 ★	RM-71	CUSTOMS, blue, mis-perforated 12½ x 10, on horizontal mesh wove a second vertical row (perf 10) at the right center

Returning to the regularly perforated **RM-70**

RM-70 - CUSTOMS, Beaver, blue, perforated 10, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove - 5 mm. controls

75820	RM-70	CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 10, on horizontal mesh wove
81796	RM-70	CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 10, on horizontal mesh wove
86026	RM-70	CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 10, on horizontal mesh wove
97790	RM-70	CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 10, on horizontal mesh wove

--- “Small Beaver” - XXXI VICT. / CAP. VIII - CANADA CUSTOMS - October 1871 ---

--- lithographed in blue ink on horizontal mesh wove at Ottawa under the 1st BABN Contract ---

--- perforated 10 - with 5 mm. red controls - 38 x 50 mm. - scanned at 150% scale ---

1st BABN Contract (1868-1873)

October 1871 - 50,000 copies

100001 to 150000

The catalogue lists this 1871 blue “Canada / Customs” beaver stamp as follows:

RM-70 - CUSTOMS, Beaver, blue, perforated 10, on horizontal mesh wove - 5 mm. controls



★**RM-70** - CANADA CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 10, with 5 mm. red control **111988**, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove

108538	RM-70	CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 10, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
111915 ★	RM-70	CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 10, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
111988 ★	RM-70	CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 10, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
112229	RM-70	CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 10, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
114480	RM-70	CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 10, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
129438	RM-70	CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 10, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
133812	RM-70	CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 10, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
146951 ★	RM-70	CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 10, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove, the upper right corner with wide imperforate margins

The collection *does not contain* a copy of **RM-72** - the Lee Brandom, perforated 10 blue beaver stamp with 4 mm. red controls. The control numbering is probably in the **180000** to **182000** range - separated by Burland-Desbarats but control numbered by BABN at Montreal.

RM-72 - CUSTOMS, Beaver, blue, perf 10, on horizontal mesh wove, with 4 mm. controls - **WANTED!**

--- “Small Beaver” - XXXI VICT. / CAP. VIII - CANADA CUSTOMS - February 1872 ---

--- RM-70 - lithographed in blue ink on horizontal mesh wove at Ottawa under the 1st BABN Contract ---

--- perforated 10 - with 5 mm. red controls - 38 x 50 mm. - scanned at 150% scale ---

1st BABN Contract (1868-1873)

February 1872 - 32,000 copies

150001 to 182000

The catalogue lists this 1871 blue “Canada / Customs” beaver stamp as follows:

RM-70 - CUSTOMS, Beaver, blue, perforated 10, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove - 5 mm. controls

174282
179767

RM-70
RM-70

CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 10, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 10, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove



★ RM-70 PP - CANADA CUSTOMS, an imperforate blue plate proof on horizontal mesh wove

--- “Small Beaver” - XXXI VICT. / CAP. VIII - CANADA CUSTOMS - May 3rd 1878 ---

--- RM-73 - lithographed in blue ink on horizontal mesh wove at Montreal under the 2nd BABN Contract ---

--- perforated 12 - with 4 mm. red controls - 38 x 50 mm. - scanned at 150% scale ---

2nd BABN Contract (1873-1878)

May 3rd 1878 - 12,000 copies

182001 to 194000

In 1878 “Burland Desbarats” was still using their horizontal mesh wove paper, but the stamps are now crisply perforated 12, and a 4 mm. control number is being used, but by May BABN, Montreal, had assumed the control numbering and the perforating of the “Burland” stamps.

The Lee Brandom catalogue should list these 1878 blue “Canada / Customs” beaver stamps as follows:

RM-73 - CUSTOMS, Beaver, blue, perforated 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove, with 4 mm. controls



★**RM-73** - CANADA CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 12, with 4 mm. red control **184246**, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove

184246 ★

RM-73

CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 12, on horizontal mesh wove

--- “Small Beaver” - XXXI VICT. / CAP. VIII - CANADA CUSTOMS - May 28th 1878 ---

--- RM-73 - lithographed in blue ink on horizontal mesh wove at Montreal under the 2nd BABN Contract ---

--- perforated 12 - with 4 mm. red controls - 38 x 50 mm. - scanned at 150% scale ---

2nd BABN Contract (1873-1878)

May 28th 1878 - 16,000 copies

194001 to 210000

The catalogue list this 1878 blue “Canada / Customs” beaver stamp as follows:

RM-73 - CUSTOMS, Beaver, blue, perforated 12, on horizontal mesh wove, with 4 mm. controls



★RM-73 - CANADA CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 12, with 4 mm. red control **206866**,
lithographed on horizontal mesh wove

201032 ★

RM-73

CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove

206866 ★

RM-73

CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove

--- “Small Beaver” - XXXI VICT. / CAP. VIII - CANADA CUSTOMS - June 17th 1878 ---

--- RM-73 - lithographed in blue ink on horizontal mesh wove at Montreal under the 2nd BABN Contract ---

--- perforated 12 - with 4 mm. red controls - 38 x 50 mm. - scanned at 150% scale ---

2nd BABN Contract (1873-1878)

June 17th 1878 - 172,000 copies

210001 to 382000

The catalogue list this 1878 blue “Canada / Customs” beaver stamp as follows:

RM-73 - CUSTOMS, Beaver, blue, perforated 12, on horizontal mesh wove, with 4 mm. controls



★RM-73 - CANADA CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 12, with 4 mm. red control **312132**,
lithographed on horizontal mesh wove - stamped **SMOKING TOBACCO** in 4½ mm. Roman letters

223878	RM-73	CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
228772	RM-73	CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
232777	RM-73	CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
232834	RM-73	CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
233236★	RM-73	CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
235285	RM-73	CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
246612	RM-73	CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
251218	RM-73	CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
267728	RM-73	CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
269119	RM-73	CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
311051★	RM-73	CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
312132★	RM-73	CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove, stamped SMOKING TOBACCO in 4½ mm. Roman letters
326755	RM-73	CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
375818	RM-73	CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
375840	RM-73	CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove

--- “Small Beaver” - XXXI VICT. / CAP. VIII - CANADA CUSTOMS - 1878-86 ---

--- RM-73 - lithographed in blue ink on horizontal mesh wove at Montreal under the 3rd BABN Contract ---

--- perforated 12 - with 4 mm. red controls - 38 x 50 mm. - scanned at 150% scale ---

3rd BABN Contract (1878-1886)

98,000 copies

382001 to 480000

The catalogue lists this 1878 blue “Canada / Customs” beaver stamp as follows:

RM-73 - CUSTOMS, Beaver, blue, perforated 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove, with 4 mm. controls

The following stamps were printed under the **2nd BABN Contract** but were delivered under the **3rd BABN Contract**



★**RM-73** - CANADA CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 12, with 4 mm. red control **388266**,
lithographed on horizontal mesh wove

388266 ★	RM-73	CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
397456	RM-73	CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
413791	RM-73	CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
417827	RM-73	CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
480005	RM-73	CUSTOMS, blue, perforated 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove

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